

## NEBRASKA IN BRIEF

Timely News Culled From All Parts of the State, Reduced for the Busy.

## SCORES OF EVENTS COVERED

Attorney General Davis so far has not indicated to Governor McKelvie what legal steps can be taken against the St. Paul Republican, a weekly newspaper, because of an article published therein, which declared, in effect, that hope was entertained by people of Howard county that Grammer and Cole, sentenced to death for the murder of Mrs. Vogt, near Mohr in 1917, would find no easy means of escaping the penalty of their crime, such as that provided for Beryl C. Kirk and others released from the penitentiary on executive order. The article apparently offended the governor greatly.

Two hundred delegates representing Nebraska and neighboring states, met at Omaha the other day and organized the Missouri Valley Duroc Breeders' Association. It was said to be the most important gathering in the history of the hog-raising industry of the middle west. The purpose of the organization is to promote a sentiment among farmers to breed Duroc hogs and to urge co-operation of hog raisers in this part of the country.

The state bureau of pardons and paroles has made known that John C. Elliott, formerly president of the Farmers State Bank at Decatur, who was sentenced to prison from one to seven years in the state prison at Lincoln, on a charge of embezzlement in connection with the operation of the institution, was released from prison March 21, 1919, ten months after he began serving his sentence, upon papers approved by Governor McKelvie.

Five hundred members of the railroad brotherhood and hundreds of farmers have taken stock in a co-operative store to be established at North Platte. The concern, which will be the most extensive of its kind in Nebraska, will deal in all farm products, dry goods, clothing, hardware, farm machinery, groceries and possibly drugs.

Insanity, brought on by an attack of influenza, is believed to have caused Charles Ellis of York to shoot and dangerously wound Ruth Andrews, his 16-year-old sister-in-law and later commit suicide by sending a bullet through his brain.

Governor McKelvie has announced that complaints are reaching his office over increased price of coal being exacted by retail dealers over the state. The information has been forwarded to Attorney General Palmer at Washington.

Omaha retained its position as the second live stock market of the world, in 1919, being exceeded only by Chicago. Total receipts of cattle, hogs, sheep and horses at the Omaha market amounted to \$8,555,500 head during the year.

Poultry raisers in a large number of towns over the state have indicated their intentions to have exhibits at the Nebraska Poultry Association show at Lincoln during organized agriculture meetings.

C. C. Flansburg, Lincoln attorney; John H. Kemp, Fullerton; Harry Sackett, Beatrice, and C. E. Sandall, York, are among men talked of as possible candidates for the republican nomination for governor.

A special election will be held in Thomas county, January 20, to vote upon a \$60,000 bond proposition for the purpose of erecting a new high school building at Theford.

Fire of unknown source caused property loss at Cortland to the amount of \$10,000. The building occupied by the Bank of Cortland and a grocery store were destroyed.

The new proposed \$800,000 stock exchange building which was to be constructed at South Omaha the coming spring, will not be built until next year, reports say.

The annual convention of the Nebraska Volunteer Firemen's Association will be held at Scottsbluff, January 20, 21 and 22.

Bad condition of fields throughout Nebraska during the past two weeks has caused a considerable curtailment of corn picking.

The Smith theater at Tecumseh has been leased for meeting quarters for the local post of the American Legion.

Lincoln Post No. 3 of the American Legion has presented General John J. Pershing with membership Card No. 1.

The new \$5,000,000 Nebraska capitol building to be erected at Lincoln, will contain 80,000 square feet of floor space, compared with 50,000 in the present building, according to members of the capitol commission.

A delegation of Omaha citizens called on Governor McKelvie and Adjutant General Paul at Lincoln the other day and asked them to expedite the formation of national guard companies in Omaha.

Reports from the potash fields of northwestern Nebraska are that the plants are all running, save one, and it will be started soon.

The elevator at Hickman and 5,000 bushels of grain were completely destroyed by fire, entailing a loss of \$50,000, partly covered by insurance.

The final revised estimate of the 1919 potato crop for Nebraska, announced through the bureau of crop estimates at Lincoln, forecasts 1,547,000 bushels, or 2,210 cars. Approximately 5,000 cars were shipped out in 1918.

The death of almost 100 persons in the east from drinking wood alcohol since Christmas, has caused state officials to call attention to the fact that hundreds of garages in Nebraska are violating the state law by selling this same liquid, which is used as anti-freeze in automobile radiators. Paragraph 2734, under Section 5 of the law relating to druggists, specifically forbids any person not a registered pharmacist to sell poison and provides a severe penalty for its fracture.

F. M. Ridings and E. N. Dion, who were arraigned before Judge Blauvelt at Theford to answer to two separate charges, one for embezzlement and one for conspiring to wreck the Farmers State Bank at Halsey, which was recently closed by state authorities, were placed under \$25,000 bond for their appearance at the March term of the district court.

Figures compiled from county assessors' annual reports show that Nebraska farmers in 1919 raised crops worth \$561,455,456. Corn, with a total production of 184,362,094 bushels from 7,029,811 acres, leads all other crops, with a value of \$230,452,617. Wheat is second, with a total value of \$121,715,881 for winter and spring wheat crops.

Box Butte county has at least one man who is deeply interested in the farmer lads of his home district, and he is C. A. Newberry, who has agreed to defray the expenses of five lads of the county to attend the university school of agriculture winter short course at Lincoln, which runs from January 20 to February 20.

Governor McKelvie rescripted Cole and Grammer, under sentence of death by electrocution January 9 for the murder of Grammer's mother-in-law, for one week, because of possible delay in the arrival of the executioner from New York.

"Hail the Knight of the Nation," a song of which both words and music was composed by William Fell, University of Nebraska student, and dedicated to General Pershing, won the \$50 prize offered by the Lincoln Rotary club.

Governor McKelvie has appointed Judge George A. Day of the Douglas county district court to fill the vacancy in the supreme court caused by the death of Judge Samuel H. Sedgwick, at Lincoln. The term expires in 1922.

A petition has been filed at the state house at Lincoln asking that General Leonard Wood's name be placed on the ballot in the April primary as Nebraska's preference candidate for the republican presidential nomination.

Resources of 900 Nebraska state banks reporting for the period covering the close of business November 15, 1919, as shown by the records of the state department of banking, total \$331,945,489.

Herbert M. Bushnell, well known Nebraska newspaper man, founder and publisher of the Trade Review, a trade journal published at Lincoln, died at a hospital in the Capital City.

From O'Neill comes the report that a carp canning plant is to be built there by local men who have been selling smoked, dried and salted carp for several years.

Nebraska had 1,000 fires in 1919. The loss was \$1,422,944, or 34 per cent less than the year before, when it was \$2,158,205, according to State Fire Marshal Beach.

Grand Island reports indicate that unless means are found by which an indebtedness of \$9,000 is met, the Hail county fair association may disband. Between April 1 and December 31, 1919, fires caused a property loss of \$312,694 at Beatrice. During the nine months the city had forty-nine fires.

Figures compiled by the government show that a total of \$613,025 was expended on the Lincoln Highway in Nebraska in 1919.

More than \$900 has been raised by Beatrice citizens to furnish new quarters for the local post of the American Legion.

It is estimated that the big potash plants in western Nebraska are turning out 500 tons of the finished product daily.

The oil well near Chadron has been sunk to a depth of 800 feet and promoters of the project believe oil will be found.

Plans have been perfected for Polk county's new court house, which is to be built at Osceola the coming spring. The Young Men's Christian Association of Lincoln voted General Pershing a life member of the organization.

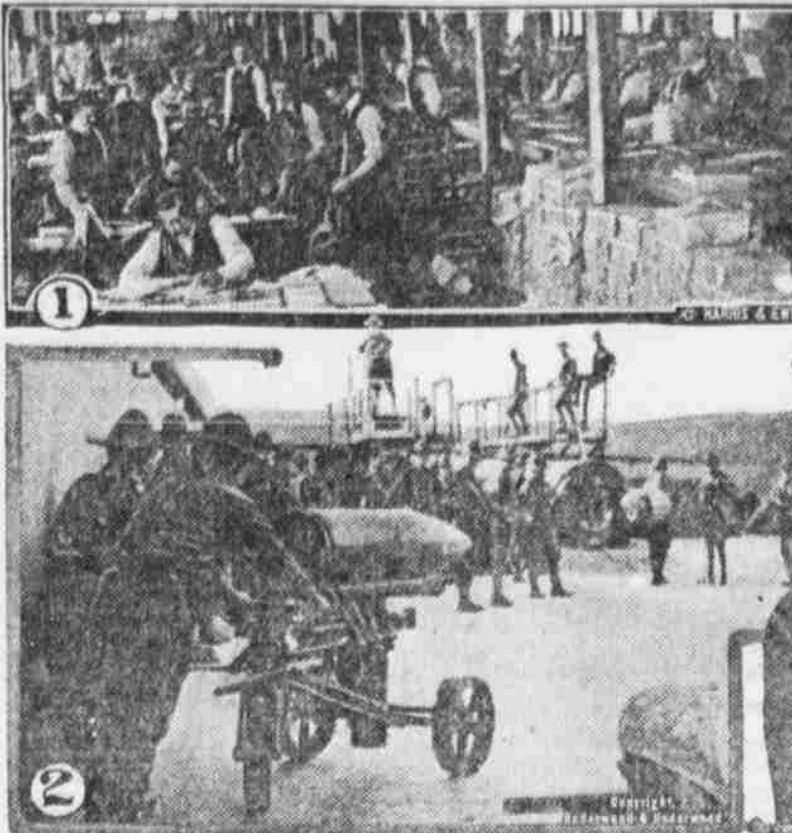
Several civic organizations at Omaha are planning the erection of a \$1,000,000 community building in the city.

Mrs. Anna Estine, 91 years old, and her grandson, aged 9, were found dead in the Estine home at Linwood. The deaths were caused, it is thought, from eating spoiled candy.

Some political busy-bodies at Lincoln are advancing the hope, both publicly and otherwise, that the capitol city will furnish two presidential aspirants this year—Pershing and Bryan. Cattle, swine, horse and sheep breeders' associations have each been accorded a day on the program of organized agriculture, which meets at Lincoln the week of January 19.

A statement compiled by State Superintendent Clemmons shows that sixty of the ninety-three county superintendents in the state are women. More than 5,000 Nebraskans, including scores of the state's most prominent citizens, attended a reception tendered General Pershing at the State Capitol at Lincoln.

While many eastern Nebraska housewives are paying as high as 22 cents a pound for beet sugar, the commodity is selling in Scottsbluff and other western towns at \$13 per 100-pound sack, according to reports.



1—Shipping room of the census bureau from which supplies are mailed to the \$7,000 enumerators. 2—Scene during target practice with the 12-inch mortars and 14-inch rifles of Fort MacArthur, Los Angeles. 3—American Red Cross nurses leaving Vladivostok for the interior of Siberia.

## NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

Treaty Compromisers Still Are Hopeful but Wilson Shows No Signs of Yielding.

## PROGRESS OF THE BOLSHEVIKI

Sign Armistice With Estonia and Worry Japan by Siberian Advance—Congress Gets Lots of Advice on Railway Legislation.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD.

Prospects of a satisfactory compromise in the treaty situation in the United States senate were not much brightened by the developments of last week. The compromisers were unimpressed in their efforts, however, and one of them, Senator Pomeroy, after a conference with Senator Lodge, said: "I believe we will get together. None of the reservations which the majority of the senate adopted is as bad as defeat of the treaty. The country wants the treaty ratified promptly."

The signs that a good many Democrats were ready to abandon the administration's policy of ratification without reservation caused Secretary Tumulty to visit the capitol and study the situation for the president. He had a long talk with Senator Hitchcock, and while neither would give the details of the conference, Mr. Hitchcock said: "We've got a long row to hoe yet before we reach a compromise." He added that nothing Mr. Tumulty said indicated the slightest sign that the president would yield in his refusal to compromise in the fight.

Meanwhile the supreme council in Paris, which had made up its mind to go ahead without waiting longer for the United States, ran up against a snag. It had fixed January 6 as the day on which the protocol should be signed and ratifications of the German treaty be exchanged, and then discovered that the German delegates did not have full power to act. Steps to rectify this were taken. The supreme council learned that there were still some 80,000 German troops in upper Silesia, and a plebiscite is to be held, and it was decided Germany should be told it had better remove them at once. It was also planned to send a mission of allied officers to supervise the withdrawal of Hungarian troops that are in that part of western Hungary that was given to Austria.

On the last day of the year the Estonians and soviet Russians in conference at Dorpat signed a seven days' armistice, the protocol including a temporary adjustment of boundaries, military guarantees and recognition of the independence of Estonia. It was assumed that this agreement would soon be followed by the conclusion of a definite peace between the two countries.

In a New Year's greeting to the world, sent from Moscow by wireless, the soviet government promises that in 1920 it will victoriously end the civil war in Russia, that soviet will be established in Berlin, Washington, Paris and London, and that soviet authority will be supreme throughout the world.

General Semenov is now the dominant figure among the anti-bolsheviks of Siberia. Following his disastrous defeats and the swift advance eastward of the soviet armies, Admiral Kolchak went into eclipse. His forces melted away rapidly, and in the Irkutsk region mutiny and anarchy prevailed. The entente allies and the United States seem quite disinclined to intervene further in the affairs of Russia by force of arms, in which they probably are wise, and it appears to be up to Japan to stop the onward sweep of bolshevism in the far East, if it can be done at all. The impression prevails that the Japanese will be given a free hand on their assurance that they have no intention of annexing any additional territory.

They declare their only aim is to protect their land from the poison of bolshevism. The Japanese premier has indicated that any general advance of the soviet forces beyond the southeast side of Lake Baikal will result in outright war between the Japanese and the bolsheviks.

Premier Nitti and Foreign Minister Scialoja of Italy have gone to Paris and London to try to bring about an adjustment of the Adriatic dispute favorable to Italy. The latter, addressing the Italian senate, said Mr. Lansing's proposal for the neutralization of the Dalmatian islands and the surrounding sea as far as Ragusa was intolerable, since it would leave a part of the Italian coast exposed to the same attack as in the late war, but he believed Great Britain and France could persuade President Wilson to change his views.

"M. Clemenceau and Mr. Lloyd George told me," said the foreign minister, "that if France, England and Italy agreed, even going beyond the terms of President Wilson, they believed they could present the agreement to President Wilson and induce him to accept it in the interest of European peace."

If the conferees of the senate and house do not arrive at a satisfactory solution of the railway bill puzzle, it will not be for lack of advice, expert and inexperienced. All sorts of organizations have been taking a whack at it, and all of them are directly interested. The American Federation of Labor, the four railway brotherhoods and ten railway shopmen's unions affiliated with the federation got together in Washington and told what they wished, what they hoped for and what they would not countenance. In the first place, they declared themselves in favor of two years more of government operation of the railways, in order to give the principle of government ownership a real test. They realized that the return of the roads to their owners on March 1 is now a certainty, but gave notice that they will make government ownership a political issue in the future. As for the pending legislation, they declared themselves against the anti-strike feature and the penalty provisions against ceasing work, and in favor of the features which tend to establish better relations between the employees and the carriers, and urged that these features be extended to the sleeping car and Pullman company employees. The railway shopmen already have voted to strike if congress adopts the Cummins anti-strike provision, and it is believed the brotherhoods might adopt the same course.

Next, the American Bankers' association told what it considered necessary to rehabilitate the impaired credit of the roads. It favors the speedy return to private ownership; the voluntary but not compulsory consolidation of railroad properties; permissive federal incorporation; exclusive regulation and control of the issue of stocks and bonds by railroads and water common carriers by a federal board; a government guarantee to the roads for six months after the end of federal control, of net operating income equal to the standard return for the same period during federal control; and an extension of the carriers' indebtedness to the government for capital expenses to run serially for from ten to twenty years. All these features are in either the Cummins or the Esch bill, and some of them are in both.

Another group vitally interested in the railway legislation is the shippers, and these gentlemen, at a national conference in Chicago, besides recommending higher rates for the roads, adopted resolutions in substance as follows: "We are opposed to the creation of a transportation board as provided in the Cummins bill. "We oppose the appropriation by the government of the excess earnings of a railroad company. "We oppose the scheme of ratemaking groups and standardization of earnings therein as provided for in the Cummins bill. "We are opposed to the consolidation of the railroads and the division of the country into rate groups as provided in the Cummins bill. "We are in favor of legislation which will permit the return of the

railroads to their owners at the earliest possible moment and permit operation by them.

"We are in favor of legislation that will effectually prevent the catastrophe that would follow a general railroad strike and at the same time fully recognize the rights of the laborer and all parties in interest."

President Wilson's second industrial conference has put forward a tentative plan for the settlement of industrial disputes and adjourned until January 12, when it will be ready to listen to criticisms of its scheme from interested parties. So far the comments on the plan have ranged all the way from warm praise to ridicule. As machinery for conciliation the conference proposes this:

1. A national industrial tribunal, appointed by the president, to serve as a board of appeal for the final adjustment of wage and other controversies.

2. Twelve regional chairmen, appointed by the president, who will form boards on occasion from established panels of employers and employees for the adjustment of particular disputes.

3. Regional boards of inquiry to investigate and report upon any dispute which either or both parties refuse to settle through a board of adjustment.

4. Empires to whom a board may refer a dispute for decision.

The plan does not propose to do away with the ultimate right to strike, to discharge or to maintain the closed or the open shop; but a decision under it would be binding on both parties, having the force and effect of a trade agreement. The conference believes policemen, firemen and other government employees should be denied the right to strike, but not the right to associate for mutual protection or the presentation of grievances.

Numerous deaths in many parts of the country, due to the drinking of bogus whiskey made of wood alcohol, have aroused the authorities and have spread dismay in the ranks of those who were relying on "moonshine" liquor for their evasions of the prohibition laws. Criminal gangs in several cities have engaged in the manufacture of this deadly drink, and have profited enormously, but some of their members are now under arrest and probably many others will be caught and punished. Their victims, naturally, are mainly of the poorer classes, which could not afford to lay in "private stocks" before the sale of liquor became illegal. If the wood alcohol is not fatal to the drinkers, it is almost certain to cause total blindness. As one result of the deaths the bureau of internal revenue will recommend to congress the passage of a law subjecting the manufacture and sale of wood alcohol to the same restrictions as grain alcohol.

Attorney General Palmer has no fear that the red movement will go far enough in this country "to disturb the peace and well-being, or create any widespread distrust of the people's government." And in order that it may not go so far, he announces, the department of justice will keep up a persistent and aggressive warfare against the radicals. He says some 2,000 of them will be deported in the near future, and in order to have enough on hand to fill up the "soviet ark" his agents on New Year's day took a large number of the reds into custody. Mr. Palmer urges that the radical propaganda be counteracted by teaching its purpose through the press, the church, the schools, the labor unions and patriotic organizations.

Death claimed two distinguished members of America's fighting forces last week—Maj. Gen. Thomas H. Barry and Rear Admiral John E. Pillsbury. General Barry was in active service from the time of his graduation from West Point in 1877 until his retirement, last August. He did excellent work in the Philippines, commanded the army of Cuban pacification, and in the war with Germany tried earnestly to obtain a divisional command in France, but was kept at home because of his physical condition. Admiral Pillsbury, who was graduated from the naval academy in 1862, was retired in 1908 for age, with 25 years' sea service to his credit. During the Spanish war he commanded the dynamite cruiser Vesuvius.

## OLD MEXICO SHAKEN

SOUTHERN REPUBLIC ROCKED BY TERRIFIC EARTHQUAKE.

## SCORES OF DEATHS REPORTED

Panic Reigned Throughout Nation.—Eruption of Volcano Orizaba Believed to Have Caused Disaster.

Mexico City, Mex.—Scores of persons have been killed in a violent earthquake which occurred in many parts of Mexico last Saturday night. The center of disturbance was near the volcano of Orizaba.

Reports indicate that the state of Vera Cruz suffered more than any other section, although serious disturbances were felt throughout the entire republic. Advances from Cordoba say that 30 dead have already been accounted for in San Juan Coscomatepec, where many houses were destroyed. A similar catastrophe is reported to have occurred in Huatusco.

At Jalapa, farther north, 50 victims of the earthquake have been counted, including numerous dead.

In the small towns and villages in the theater of disturbance many deaths and great damage has been reported.

The earthquake caused great alarm in the large cities. Marine disturbances have occurred off Vera Cruz City, and there were some casualties, with considerable destruction of property.

Information secured from the government observatory at Tacubaya show that there were three distinct shocks, the strength of which decentralized the instruments. The first shock, which occurred at 9:45 o'clock Saturday evening, lasted five minutes. The second, at 10:25 p. m., was very brief, but of terrific intensity and was accompanied by terrifying subterranean noises. The third shock, at 11:01 o'clock, was not discernible except by the seismograph.

The panic in the capital among the ignorant classes was indescribable. Many of the people of the city fled from their homes and flocked to the churches. Panic reigned in various cities and villages in the state of Vera Cruz, where the people left their homes and spent the night in the streets.

The damage in Mexico City was limited to cracks in the larger buildings. There were no deaths and none of the inhabitants was injured.

While the government observatory has not decided what caused the shocks, reports received from Cordoba, state of Vera Cruz, assert that they were due to the volcano Orizaba.

## WAR ON SUGAR TRUSTS.

Mid-West Farmers to Plan Campaign at Denver This Month.

Denver, Colorado.—Countrywide organization of sugar beet farmers to fight the so-called sugar trust is the object of a joint convention of farmers' organizations called to meet in this city January 26.

The call, issued by the Intermountain Farmers' association, the Farmers Union of Nebraska, the Ancient Order of Gleaners, the Farmers' Union of Colorado, the Mountain States Beet Growers' association, the State granges of Washington and Colorado and more than twelve co-operating farmers' organizations, declares the country is producing less than one-fourth the sugar consumed in it and asserts "the national sugar bowl is in the clutches of a few powerful corporations which are so organized and united as to form a most menacing trust."

The object of the convention, the call states, is to expand and preserve the sugar beet industry, reduce the shortage and restore normal prices. None but farmers will be accepted as delegates to the convention.

## Communists Taken at Des Moines.

Des Moines, Ia.—Twelve men and four women, members of the Russian communist party, were arrested here in a series of raids by department of justice officers, co-operating with the Des Moines police. Half a dozen gunny sacks filled with radical literature were taken. All of the prisoners are Lithuanians. They have been meeting once a month at the homes of members of the communist party. One of them had an honorable discharge from the United States army.

## To Spend Millions for Autos.

Winnipeg.—The demand for automobiles in the provinces is so great that American factories will be unable to meet the demand for 1920 cars. It is estimated that Canada will spend \$10,000,000 for automobiles during the year.

## Blame Prohibition.

Copenhagen.—The Danish press featured dispatches from the United States telling of deaths from wood alcohol, as one peril of prohibition.

## Deaf Mute Held for Murder.

Greely, Colo.—Alex. Miller, deaf mute, now in custody in the Denver county jail, was held responsible for the murder of Adam Sisk, his wife and four children on December 21, by the coroner's jury.

## Few Strike in U. S.

Washington, D. C.—The United States entered the new year with fewer pending industrial disputes than at any time during the past three years, asserted H. L. Kowin, director of conciliation of the department of labor.